



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

NED NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 1

Summer 2020

It Was the Worst of Times... And It Got Worse - Part 2

In my last NED News Article, I wrote on the pandemic that is ravaging our world and our country. Back then we were all hoping that by July or August life might be returning a bit to normal as the effects of Covid-19 might be abating a bit. As I write this article today – how wrong we were. The Coronavirus is now setting records for infections. We pray that the Lord of the Church who knows what is happening will turn this situation around.



As I wrote that last article I told myself that the summer version's part 2 would also focus on the other crisis hitting America – the protest movement. It too has not abated in our culture and every day you and I hear of changes that are forthcoming and more demands that are being given to our leaders and government officials.

As Lutherans in the Missouri Synod we have not had to deal with these issues (and in some cases would not deal with them) because our congregations are pretty much with few exceptions white and Caucasian in membership. It is estimated that in the LCMS we are about 98 percent Caucasian as a church body, though we are less

Germanic and Scandinavian than we once were in the first century of our Synod's existence. Racial issues more than likely did not divide our congregations though most of its history.

But the issues cannot be avoided and this is a new day for us all. I have to admit that I am Caucasian, and both German and English in my ancestry. So, for me to write on racism it is as an outsider to the problem who has never experienced it on a personal level. The only time I had any sense of being that unique one was in the missions trips to Africa that the Lord allowed me to make. In Liberia and in Kenya, where Caucasians are the "Zungu" I knew what it was like to have eyes staring at me as being different because of my skin color- but even then, it was not in a racist sense.

Racism is a sin. Few of us would defend it as anything other than contrary to God's Word. The Lord has made all people and tribes and nations and languages and Jesus came to die and rise for all the nations. In Revelation the inspired author describes a new heaven and a new earth where the nations, tribes and people are still recognized as far as their origins go – but they live in peace and inexpressible joy together before Jesus and will do so forevermore.

But until that day we have a voice that proclaims that in Christ Jesus men and women are one as He has broken down the dividing wall of hostility mentioned in Ephesians. He showed in His ministry that He had no hesitancy in reaching out to the fringes of society and the people found there: the tax collectors and the sinners, the Samaritans who were traditionally hated by the Jews, and even engaged Roman soldiers, the very symbols of oppression and objects of hatred by Jews.

I do applaud our government based on liberty and the fact that “all men are created equal” when it brings about justice for all. But my one hesitancy is in believing it can all be done by legislating and enacting laws. The only way to break down hatred in the heart is to change the heart and only Jesus can do that. Until he does, even the most well-meaning advocates for justice will have moments when the sinful nature rises up against one’s fellow man.

Our District has sent out the Synod’s booklet on racism to all Pastors. We have encouraged our congregations to search for ways in which unintended racism reveals itself among us. We have encouraged our congregations to be intentional in welcoming the stranger of another race among us. We are not talking about illegal immigrants and such; we are also held by God to uphold the laws of the land when they do not contradict His Word. But we have welcomed refugees from other war-torn countries. We just held a District interview with a hoped-for Pastor from Ethiopia to colloquize into the LCMS so he can serve an Oromo congregation in Boston. We urge our pastors not to avoid the issue of racism in their ministry but to put the problem and the answer in Jesus before our people in Sermon and Bible Study.

Lord Jesus, fulfill America’s desired destiny as we pledge ourselves again to a “nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Rev. Pres. Timothy Yeadon

New England District LC-MS

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.

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 October 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

June 26th, 2020 was the 3rd **Annual National Pro-Life Bridges Day** in America. What is that?

On over 100 bridges across America people affixed signs reading: Abortion takes a human life in white letters on a blue background. These banners are 6 by 3 feet and are included in a special re-usable kit sold by the Pro-Life Action League (<https://shop.prolifeaction.org/products/bannerkit>)

From the webpage: The Kit includes:

- 2 banners reading "Abortion takes a human life" and measuring 6' x 3'
- 2 sturdy, pre-assembled PVC frames (with banners attached)
- 4 bungee cords
- Spare zip ties
- A page of Instructions for setting up your banners
- A Legal Memo establishing your right to hold pro-life banners on a highway overpass



As a Congregation, please prayerfully consider the purchase of one of these kits for use in 2021. Check out the highway or road overpasses in your area. Request Thrivent Action funding for the kit as Education!

My husband Joe and I have participated since its inception. This year, facing only the west-bound side, we reached over 9000 vehicles between 3 and 5pm that Friday. While there were some drivers who made rude gestures from below, the vast majority of drivers gave us big Thumbs UP, waved, and sounded their horns in support of our message. Even more fun, most of the big rig truckers rumbled their very LOUD horns in support. The bridge seemed to vibrate.

It's a wonderful thing to experience so much support for Life and against the murder of the unborn. Please consider participating next June! If you have any questions, please reach out – I'm happy to help!

NEWS from 40 Days For Life

Apply to lead a 40 Days Campaign in Your City or Town *September 23 – November 1, 2020*
<https://www.40daysforlife.com/apply>

Watch a short video about 40 Days For Life. <https://vimeo.com/428618087>

You will see lots of Rosaries, but fear not! As a Lutheran, you can still participate. If you join and lead a prayer vigil, you "run" the vigil! When others around you are praying to Mary, you will be praying to her Son, our Savior! He hears us! Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

Marla Zeneski, NED Life Coordinator



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> new england district

LCEF's JOYFUL RESPONSE

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) offers an electronic giving platform called Joyful Response for accepting online gifts through your website, a mobile phone app, ACH or text-giving. This platform is available for LCMS congregations, schools and registered service organizations (RSOs). If you are not currently set up to take electronic payments, please contact Brenda Bacon at 413-783-0131 ext. 10 or Brenda.Bacon@lcef.org.

For additional information, please visit LCEF's website at <https://lcef.org/joyful-response>.

Rev. Benjamin Akers installed as Associate Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, ME

Rev. Benjamin Akers, installed as Associate Pastor of The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, Maine on Sunday, June 21st. Rev. Don Colageo, Circuit Visitor for Circuit 1 represented Pastor Yeadon and preached and conducted the Rite of Installation. Pastor Nielsen officiated the Order of Morning Prayer. Other pastors present were Rev. Ted Evertsen, Rev. Tim Sandeno, Rev. Robert Fischer.



Family: Amber, Matthew, Elizabeth Akers

Orphan Grain Train Sends Two Shipments to Appalachia

Volunteers for Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch filled two 53 ft. containers for Myra, KY. Manna from Heaven, a local Mission in Kentucky that provides food, clothing, medical items and other needed supplies to families in need due to the shutdown of the coal industry. Manna from Heaven will distribute the gifts with families and organizations in need in their area.

The first Appalachian shipment was sent on June 23, 2020 included almost 6,000 pounds of food, over 20,000 Harvest Pack ready to serve meals, 300 boxes of clothing, bedding and linens, 5 hospital beds, 3 electric and 6 manual wheelchairs, over 100 items of furniture and bedding, tools, canes, walkers, crutches, sporting equipment, bikes and 15 boxes of Bibles and religious books. All these items had been requested by the mission and offloaded on June 25th

The second Appalachian shipment on July 9, 2020, included food, clothing, medical items, and other needed supplies to families in need due to the shutdown of the coal industry. Included on the shipment were over 700 pounds of food, 2 electric wheelchairs, hundreds of stuffed animals, over 200 items of furniture such as tables and chairs, dressers, dining room furniture, sofas, cabinets, bedding including mattresses and box springs, sewing machines and supplies, layette kits, hygiene kits, tools, sporting equipment, over 30 rollators, boxes of Bibles and religious books, clothing, shower chairs, and commodes. Also, on the shipment were 6 refrigerators for families and a freezer for the Mission's food program. Rich Klepps of Terryville coordinated the details of the shipment for OGT.

All these items have been received as donations and OGT volunteers have picked them up to store in the warehouse to assist those in need. After doing 35+ shipments throughout the world and to hard hit areas in the United States, it is wonderful to be able to help an organization like the Manna from Heaven in a time of need.

The effort is an Outreach Ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and OGT is a 501(3)(C) charity affiliated with the church and supported locally by Holy Trinity Lutheran in Terryville and Immanuel Lutheran in Bristol and St. Johns in Waterbury and is open to all who want to help others. For more information, please call Holy Trinity at 860-582-0723 and/or check out the OGT.org website.



**ITEMS COLLECTED BY THE NEW ENGLAND BRANCH
OF ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN LOCATED AT 33 S. MAIN ST., TERRYVILLE, CT - 860-582-0723**

- MEDICAL SUPPLIES (HOSPITAL GOWNS, LINENS, GLOVES, NEEDLES, ORTHOPEDIC, OSTOMY, IV ITEMS, LABORATORY, FEEDING, RESPIRATORY, SURGICAL, UROLOGIC, DIAPERS-ADULT&INFANT,
- EQUIPMENT, BP DEVICES, ETC.)
- MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (HOSPITAL BEDS, MATTRESSES, WHEELCHAIRS, LIFTING DEVICES, WALKERS, CANES, CRUTCHES, COMMODOES, SHOWER CHAIRS, TRAY TABLES, RISERS, ETC.)
- HYGIENE KITS- EACH KIT (BATH TOWEL, WASH CLOTH, BATH-SIZED SOAP, TOOTHBRUSH, COMB, 6 LARGE BAND AIDS)
- SCHOOL KITS- EACH KIT (BACKPACK,2-3 SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS, 2 OR MORE PENCILS AND PENS, PKG. CONSTRUCTION PAPER, CRAYONS, RULER, GLUE STICKS, BLUNT SCISSORS, WASHABLE MARKERS, PROTRACTOR)
- BLANKETS AND QUILTS-NEW OR USED IN GOOD CONDITION
- PILLOWCASE DRESSES
- CLOTHING (NEW AND USED CLOTHING (WHICH MUST BE CLEAN WITH NO TEARS OR STAINS)- MENS, WOMENS AND CHILDREN)
- COATS, HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES, NEW OR USED IN GOOD CONDITION
- SHOES- WINTER AND SUMMER, NEW OR USED IN GOOD CONDITION
- UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS (MUST BE NEW)
- SEWING MACHINES AND SUPPLIES
- BED LINENS AND REHAB EQUIPMENT
- BIBLES

MONETARY DONATIONS MADE OUT TO: OGT, NEW ENGLAND BRANCH and mailed to 400 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01109

LWML

Although the women of the LWML-NED were unable to meet in Convention this year, we did not let that hinder us from setting our Mission Goal and selecting Mission Projects to fund. Our delegates voted by mail, stepping out in faith to set a mission goal of collecting \$71,000 for missions over the next two years. Of that total, \$46,150 will fund the projects selected by our delegates and \$17,750 will be sent to the National LWML to help fund their Mission Projects for 2019-2021 totaling \$2.1 million.

You can see from the list of our Mission Projects below that over the next two years the women of the LWML-NED will be supporting a wide range of mission projects including: Lutheran education in

our District and at our Seminaries, comfort ministry to those in need in the US and abroad, and spreading the Gospel message in Africa.

We hope and pray that you will want to be a part of supporting these mission efforts and invite you to send your donations to our Treasurer Susan Lastowski, PO Box 626, Holyoke, MA 01041.

These are unusual times, but we know the Lord is with us and continues to visibly bless us. We are currently going ahead with plans for our annual Fall Retreat to be held November 6 & 7, 2020, at the Doubletree at Bradley Airport. The theme is, "Be Thou My Vision (In such a time as this)," and will be led by Donna Snow (Pyle), an inspiring speaker we have had the privilege of hearing at a past Retreat and National Conventions. More information can be found on our website, lwml-ned.org. During this time, we place our trust in our loving Father as St. Paul reminds us in Romans, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:35, 37.

LWML-NED Mission Projects 2020-2022

1. Orphan Grain Train New England Branch, Terryville, CT	\$5,000
2. Reach Me! Teach Me! Trinity Christian School, Keene, NH	\$5,000
3. Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Trinity Lutheran Church, Ashaway, RI	\$1,200
4. Lydia Comfort Dog, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lynnfield, MA	\$5,000
5a. Concordia Theological Seminary Co-Op, Ft. Wayne, IN	\$2,500
5b. Feed My Faith, First Lutheran Church & School, Holyoke, MA	\$1,000
6. LCMS-NED Short Term Mission Trips, LWML-NED	\$6,000
7. Capstone Education Fund, Capstone Ministries, Kenya	\$5,000
8. At Just the Right Time, LCMS Mission Central, Mapleton, IA	\$3,500
9. Support for Missionaries Serving the Lord in Ghana, West Africa	\$5,000
10. Prodigal Ministry, LCMS-NED	\$2,000
11. Concordia Seminary's International Graduate Students, St. Louis, MO	\$3,000
12. Caring for Haitian Saints, Ministry in Mission, Haiti	\$1,950

Sharon Dever
LWML-NED President

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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. 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.

New England District Circuit and Regional Breakdown

REGION I

REV. JAMES BUTLER, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT NO. 1

- CIRCUIT VISITOR — Rev. Don Colageo, Immanuel Lutheran, Manchester, NH
- Pastor Christopher Bartell, Regeneration Lutheran, Exeter, NH
- Pastor Edwin Harkey, Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH
- Pastor George Ruwisch and Associate Pastor Bryan Stecker, Grace Lutheran, Nashua, NH
- Pastor Dagan Siefert, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New Ipswich, NH
- Pastor David Mueller, Good Shepherd, Peterborough, NH
- Vicar Ed Schneeflock, Christ Lutheran, Troy, NH
- 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 also served by Associate Pastor Rev. Ben Akers
- 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 Eric Sahlberg, Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Acton, MA
- Pastor Jonathan Manor, 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
- Pastor Steve Vekasy, Trinity Lutheran, W. Roxbury, MA
- VACANT, 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, MA
- Pastor James Hopkins, First Lutheran, Boston, MA
- VACANT, St. James Lutheran, Canton, MA
- Pastor James Butler, St. Luke's Lutheran, Dedham, MA
- Pastor Steve Law, Lutheran Church of Wollaston, Quincy, MA
- VACANT, Lutheran Church of The Way, Raynham, MA
- Pastor Joe Nollet, 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 Michael Coons, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Enfield, CT
- VACANT, St. Paul's Lutheran, New Hartford, CT also served by Specific Ministry Pastor Kevin Mongeau
- Pastor Jim Rice, Trinity Lutheran, Easthampton, MA
- Pastor Randall Bessette, First Lutheran, Holyoke, MA
- VACANT, Trinity Lutheran, Springfield, MA
- Pastor D. David Riley, St. John's, Westfield, MA
- Pastor Randall Pekari, Our Savior, South Windsor, CT
- VACANT, Good Shepherd, Suffield, CT
- VACANT, Lutheran Church of the Deaf, W. Hartford, CT

CIRCUIT NO. 5

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

REGION III

REV. ROBERT BEINKE, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT NO. 6

- △ 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
- Served by Pastor Greg Wismar, 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
- Pastor Joel Kotila, St. John's, Waterbury, CT

CIRCUIT NO. 7

- ▲ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Rob Morris, Christ the King, Newtown, CT
- VACANT, Holy Cross Lutheran, Trumbull, CT
- VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT
- Pastor David Rowold, Cheshire Lutheran, Cheshire, CT
- Associate 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 Robert Beinke, St. Peter's Lutheran, Norwalk, CT
- Pastor Jacob Benson, Zion Lutheran, Orange, CT

