

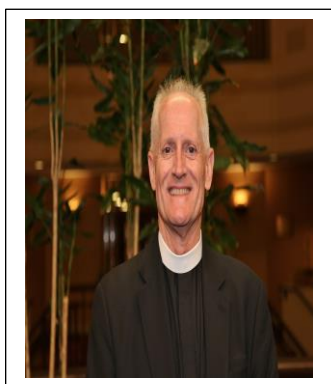


The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

NED NEWS

Volume 25, Issue 2

Winter 2023



President's Message

After all the excitement of the Christmas season, January and February can bring the doldrums – unless you are a child who enjoys snowstorms and the fun that they promise! But, for the rest of us, there are cold days to endure... the promise of having to clear your car of snow and ice, and then also the driveway... long, dark nights (although, at least the daylight hours are now increasing!)... and, for most of us, few vacation days to enjoy. Let's just endure and get through winter!

In the Church, however, we have exciting things to focus upon and celebrate. The season of Epiphany begins on January 6 with the remembrance of the visit of the Magi. Then, on Sunday the 8th, we focus upon Jesus' baptism. He is baptized by John, along with the rest of the people. And so, we learn that Jesus joins us in baptism, and joins us in His baptism! How exciting to hear on that day Paul's words in Rom. 6: *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his... So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."* On the following Sunday's we hear of Christ's calling of His first disciples, the beginning of His ministry of teaching and healing, and then we spend several weeks on the beginning of His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus proclaims blessed in Him even the poorest in spirit among us, and then proceeds to carefully teach us God's Law and His fulfillment of it. In Jesus we are given a wonderful identity as God's children and wonderful guidance for our lives. We are truly blessed! How great it is to be able to be in church to hear this and receive, not simply of our Savior and His blessings, but to receive our Savior Himself! He pronounces forgiveness for our every sin through the absolution proclaimed by the Pastor He has sent... His very voice rings out in the readings from Matthew... He speaks to us through the Pastor's sermon, applying His Word to our lives... and He gives us His very body and blood. Keep this in mind and have this focus, and you will never feel the doldrums in church!

We also have significant events to focus upon, and some to celebrate, this winter. The last week of January is National Lutheran Schools Week. We have four schools in our District: Trinity Christian School in Keene, NH; Immanuel Lutheran School and Preschool in Bristol, CT; Immanuel Lutheran School in Danbury, CT; and First Lutheran School in Holyoke, MA. I will be joining the staff and students at First Lutheran in Holyoke on January 25 to lead their morning chapel. I encourage you to first, and above all, lift up our schools in prayer; and then, to see how you can help our schools with your time and your financial support. Like our

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

April 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.

churches, they are bringing the Gospel of Christ to students and families and are working to anchor them in the wonderful identity we have in Christ as God's children and His wonderful guidance for our lives. Thanks be to God for their ministry!

January also brings before us Life Sunday, which this year is celebrated on January 22. We live in a culture that increasingly promotes death as a solution to unwanted and unexpected pregnancy, terminal illness, and the weariness with living. We, however, know God as the Lord and Giver of life – and above all, eternal life – in Jesus! Let us rejoice in Him and joyously hold forth the hope and life we have in Him – in these winter months, and always!!

In Christ,

Pastor Bob Beinke, DP

District President Bible Study Offered

Join Pres. Beinke for a weekly Bible study of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday! This online study takes place on Thursday's from 7:00 - 8:00 PM on Go-To-Meeting at the following link: <https://meet.goto.com/445850965>.

The study is of the readings from the 3-year series, year A, which most of the congregations of the District are following. These can be found in the Lutheran Service Book, p. xiv. If Thursday is a national holiday the class will not meet.



NED Life Coordinator Update

On Monday, December 19, 2022, Pastor Beinke and I attended a Luncheon celebrating the launch of the 2nd Annual Connecticut March for Life. This year's March will take place on March 22, 2023. We have been and will be participating on regular Zoom calls sharing information to make the March successful and well-attended. As representatives of the LCMS NED, Pastor Beinke and I are hoping to help NED Lutherans to participate in the Connecticut March. We will meet for a service at 10:00am at Our Savior Lutheran, 239 Graham Road, South Windsor, CT and then take a bus from there into Hartford. Please join us!

On November 4th 2022, Joe and I presented new Life resources at our table during the NED LWML Rally.

Upcoming Opportunities to Serve The Lord:

40 Days For Life - The 2023 Spring vigil runs from **February 22nd – April 2nd**

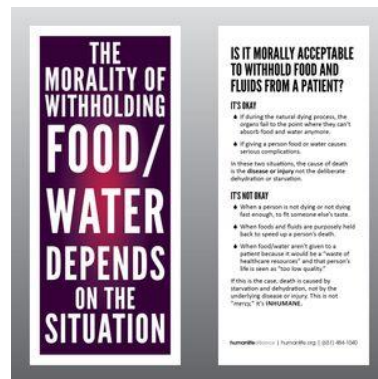
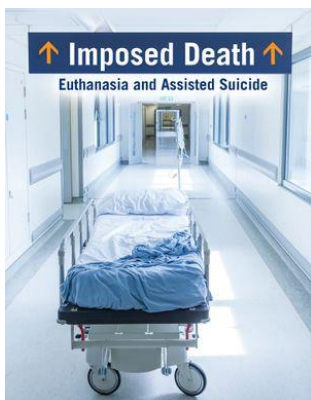
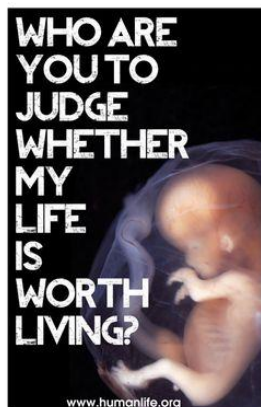
<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-search.aspx>

Connecticut March for Life - March 22, 2023 in Hartford, CT

<https://marchforlife.org/connecticut-march-for-life/>

Connecticut March for Life is using <https://rally.co/> to manage March logistics. If your NED Congregation is interested in attending the CT March, let me know and I will inform the person who is managing CT March transportation to Hartford for you.

Finally, check out our new NED Life Ministry webpage. Let me know if there is information you would like to see on the page and I will work to provide it!



Prayers Requested

Finally, please pray that Pregnancy Resource Centers remain open and staff and clients safe from violence and harm.

In Christ,

Marla Zeneski, NED Life Coordinator

LIFE Ministry Alive in Maine with “Birth-Day” Gifts

With a \$1000 grant from Synod’s Million Dollar Life Match, Redeemer Lutheran Church of Gorham & Sanford, ME helped 15 unborn children get a “Birth-Day”. Studies show that 80% of women who are thinking of having an abortion, on seeing their child in the womb, chose life for that child. For about \$200 each, Redeemer helped fund \$4,000 worth of sonograms at two PRCs (Pregnancy Resource Centers): ABBA in Portland and Alpha in Sanford. Then to help these new families celebrate the most wonderful Birth-Day of all, Redeemer distributed thru these PRCs 15 Christmas Gift Boxes. The boxes included not only practical items needed by a newborn, and some joyfully indulgent items for the new parents, but also a children’s Bible, an adult Bible and other things to help these new families grow spiritually as they grow physically. These gifts were joyfully received, and created a buzz in the community, as these new families that might not have been, now got to enjoy the most important days in their lives ... the Birth-Day of their new child, and the Birthday of Christ!



Photo left to right: Congregational President Paul Fielding; SOULs Committee head who led the effort Darik Day, ABBA’s Executive Director Jenny Pratt. All with check-in-hand, and some of the Christmas Birth-day gift boxes ready for distribution to the new families.

Orphan Grain Train Makes Appalachian Christmas Shipment



Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct. loaded a 53foot Trailer of needed items for Appalachia on Nov. 30, 2022 to continue to deal with the devastation from the recent floods in Kentucky and to help them celebrate Christmas. OGT has the use of a warehouse in Terryville that is owned by Mr. Bill Allread, who has made space available for this charitable work.

The Appalachian shipment was sent to Manna from Heaven, a local Mission in Myra, Kentucky that provides food, clothing, medical items and other needed supplies to families in need due to the shutdown of the coal industry. Included were over 5,000 pounds of food to help with their meal program to feed over 700 families. Part of this food amount included 750 frozen chicken quarters in freezers along with rice and vegetables to make complete meals for the holidays. Also, on the shipment were 24 pallets containing hundreds of boxes and bags of Blankets, Linens, Clothing, Household and Cleaning supplies, Hygiene supplies, Bibles, Medical supplies including 2 Electric wheelchairs, Diapers, and hundreds of Christmas gifts and Toys. In addition, were 21 bicycles, over 80 pieces of Furniture, 9 mattresses including 1 Craftmatic bed, other household items, hand tools, bed frames and boxes of books. Appliances shipped included a washer and dryer and refrigerator, 3 freezers, 2 microwaves, 3 TV's and 3 vacuums. These types of items had been requested by the Mission to assist the families there.

Other shipments have gone to missions in a number of countries e.g. Liberia, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, Nepal, the Philippines, Trinidad, Panama, Ghana, Venezuela and the Republic of Georgia, as well as Appalachia and hurricane relief for Puerto Rico, Florida and North Carolina. The Branch also helps those locally in New England, giving medical items that have been donated to individuals in need and thru the visiting nurse and hospice care organizations of the area. It has also helped with a shipment to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

The effort is an Outreach Ministry of the Lutheran Church, 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.



4%

ONE-YEAR FIXED-RATE TERM NOTE

Lutherans Helping Lutherans

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the church. Our investors make it possible for us to provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

This limited-time offer is available for
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

✓ INDIVIDUALS ✓ CONGREGATIONS ✓ ORGANIZATIONS

The choice is up to you. LCEF offers a variety of term notes from 1 to 5 years.

At the end of the term, the funds remain yours to re-invest or redeem. Interest is compounded quarterly (March, June, September and December).



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
› where investments build ministry

BRENDA BACON

LCEF District Vice President | New England
413-783-0131 | Brenda.Bacon@lcef.org

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Rates as of December 2022. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details. 1222N124



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
› where investments build ministry



Lutheran Women's Missionary League New England District

Mission Work

From the beginning of our biennium in April 2022, through the end of December 2022, the LWML-NED has received \$30,699.04 in mite offerings. These gifts have allowed us to fully fund our first seven mission projects. The funded projects include three Lutheran Schools in the NED: Trinity, Keene, NH; First, Holyoke, MA; and Trinity Preschool, Ashaway, RI. We were also able to send \$5,000 to Messiah, Lynnfield, MA for their Brazilian/Portuguese language outreach; \$5,000 to help support the outreach efforts of the Rev. Adam Teferi, Missionary-at-large to the Oromo (Ethiopian) immigrants in the Boston area; and \$5,000 to the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project in Liberia, to implement a vocational training program.

If you would like to help to support our mission work, donations can be sent to: Susan Lastowski, Treasurer, LWML-NED, P.O. Box 626, Holyoke, MA 01041.

National LWML Convention

Date: June 22–25, 2023

Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Theme: Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

Scripture Verse: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man* (Psalm 33:12–13).

This LWML convention is a wonderful opportunity to join with sisters and brothers from across the country in worship, Bible study, and fellowship. It also affords the opportunity to be inspired by many mission speakers. Registration and additional information can be found on the LWML website, lwml.org.

Sharon Dever
LWML-NED President
president@lwml-ned.org

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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. PETER GREGORY, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT NO. 1

○ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Rev. David Mueller, Good Shepherd, Peterborough, NH

Pastor Christopher Bartell, Regeneration Lutheran, Exeter, NH
 Pastor Edwin Harkey, Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH
 Pastor Don Colageo, Immanuel Lutheran, Manchester, NH
 Pastor George Ruwisch, Grace Lutheran, Nashua, NH
 Pastor Dagan Siepert, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New Ipswich, NH, also serving
 Pastor Lesley Chen, Associate Pastor
 Pastor David Mueller, Good Shepherd, Peterborough, NH
 Pastor Ed Schneeflock, Christ Lutheran, Troy, NH
 Served by Pastor Ben Akers, Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor, ME
 Pastor Timothy Sandeno, Redeemer Lutheran, Gorham, ME
 Pastor Ben Akers, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, ME
 Vacant, 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
 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
 Pastor Steve Vekasy, Trinity Lutheran, W. Roxbury, MA
 Pastor Joseph Nollet, Our Savior Lutheran, Topsfield, MA
 Pastor Peter Gregory, Our Savior, Westminster, MA

CIRCUIT NO. 3

● CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor James Hopkins, First Lutheran, Boston, MA

VACANT, St. James Lutheran, Canton, MA
 Pastor James Butler, St. Luke's Lutheran, Dedham, MA
 Pastor Paul Lantz, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Hanover, MA
 Pastor Steve Law, Lutheran Church of Wollaston, Quincy, MA
 Pastor Jake Dickerhoff, Lutheran Church of The Way, Raynham, MA
 Vacant, Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA
 Pastor Leon Schultz, St. Paul Lutheran, Providence, RI
 Pastor Aaron Stinnett, 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

Pastor Anthony Mandile, 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
 Pastor Adam Moore, Good Shepherd, Suffield, CT
 VACANT, Lutheran Church of the Deaf, W. Hartford, CT

CIRCUIT NO. 5

■ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Volker Heide, Lutheran of Madison, Madison, CT

VACANT, Hope Lutheran, Storrs, CT
 Served by Pastor Gary Boye, IIM, Christ Lutheran, Amston, CT
 VACANT, Trinity Lutheran, Ashaway, RI
 Served by Pastor Greg Dwyer, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Coventry, CT
 VACANT, Faith Lutheran, Groton, CT
 Pastor Scott Schuett, Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT
 Pastor Greg Dwyer, Zion Lutheran, Manchester, CT
 Pastor Mark Valigorsky, St. Matthew's, New Britain, CT
 Served by Pastor Gem Gabriel, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New London, CT
 Pastor Paul Scheyder, Christ Lutheran, Niantic, CT
 Pastor Jason Reitz, Bethany Lutheran, W. Hartford, CT

REGION III

REV. JOEL KOTILA, 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

Pastor Nathan Erb, Holy Cross Lutheran, Trumbull, CT
 VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT
 Pastor David Rowold, Cheshire Lutheran, Cheshire, CT
 VACANT, Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT
 VACANT, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, New Fairfield, CT
 Pastor Evan Scamman, St. Paul Lutheran, Greenwich, CT
 VACANT, St. Peter's Lutheran, Norwalk, CT
 Pastor Joshua Schiff, Zion Lutheran, Orange, CT

