

## President's Message



Well, it's been nearly a year since last June's district convention and your election of me as your District President. Over the past year I have visited 22 of our congregations, a couple of mission starts, and one of our Elementary Schools, at which I also presented a message during their chapel worship. In my congregational visits I sometimes preached and helped lead the liturgy, and at other times I simply worshiped with everyone else. (When visiting a congregation which does not have a Pastor I always preached and led the Service.)

And, I participated in the Sunday Bible study class, if possible. I have also officiated at the merger of two congregations in Greenwich, CT – First and St. Paul's – into one congregation, St. Paul's; ordained two Pastors; and installed four pastors. Finally, I worked with one congregation and its Circuit Visitor as they worked through the call process and received a new Pastor, and am currently working with 8 other congregations, and their Circuit Visitors, who are in the call process.

On the Synod level, I meet with the 34 other District Presidents, LCMS Pres. Harrison, and our 6 Synod VP's at our quarterly Council of Presidents meetings; and, I am preparing for our upcoming Synod convention, which will be held in Milwaukee, beginning in late July. One of the most enjoyable things I have been able to do is attend the Vicarage placement Services and Call Services for the graduates at both of our seminaries, which take place every April. This is a good opportunity to meet, not only with Vicars and new Pastors who are coming to the district, but also with seminary students from our district and others who may be interested in our district. So: it's been a full year!

There are two things above all that I have rejoiced in during this past year: that we have Pastors who are sound theologians faithfully serving our congregations with God's Word and Sacraments, and dedicated lay people in our congregations who love their Lord and faithfully serve their fellow parishioners (and some serve us all by serving in the district). Being a parish Pastor for my first 36 years in the Holy Ministry, I rarely had the opportunity to attend our churches on a Sunday morning to hear another Pastor preach and meet the parishioners. This is now a big part of what I do... and it is a joy. We may be a small district, but we are greatly blessed by our heavenly Father!

Martin Luther had much to say about the Church and its Ministry. some of his clearest teaching is in the Large Catechism, on the Third Article of the Creed "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Of this Luther wrote:

38 Neither you nor I could ever know anything about Christ, or believe on Him, and have Him for our Lord, unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel. The work of redemption is done and accomplished. Christ has acquired and gained the treasure for us by His suffering, death, resurrection, and so on. But if the work remained concealed so that no one knew about it, then it would be useless and lost. So that this treasure might not stay buried, but be received and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to go forth and be proclaimed. In the Word, He has the Holy Spirit bring this treasure home and make it our own. 39 Therefore, sanctifying is just bringing us to Christ so we receive this good, which we could not get ourselves.

40 Learn, then, to understand this article most clearly. You may be asked, "What do you mean by the words *I believe in the Holy Spirit*?"

You can then answer, "I believe that the Holy Spirit makes me holy, as His name implies."

41 "But how does He accomplish this, or what are His method and means to this end?"

Answer, "By the Christian Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 42 For in the first place, the Spirit has His own congregation in the world, which is the mother that conceives and bears every Christian through God's Word. Through the Word He reveals and preaches, He illumines and enkindles hearts, so that they understand, accept it, cling to it, and persevere in the Word."...

51 ... I believe that there is upon earth a little holy group and congregation of pure saints, under one head, even Christ. This group is called together by the Holy Spirit in one faith, one mind, and understanding, with many different gifts, yet agreeing in love, without sects or schisms. 52 I am also a part and member of this same group, a sharer and joint owner of all the goods it possesses. I am brought into it and incorporated into it by the Holy Spirit by having heard and continuing to hear God's Word, which is the beginning of entering into it. In the past, before we had attained to this, we were altogether of the devil, knowing nothing about God and about Christ. 53 So, until the Last Day, the Holy Spirit abides with the holy congregation or Christendom. Through this congregation He brings us to Christ and He teaches and preaches to us the Word. By the Word He works and promotes sanctification, causing this congregation daily to grow and to become strong in the faith and its fruit, which He produces.

54 We further believe that in this Christian Church we have forgiveness of sin, which is wrought through the holy Sacraments and Absolution and through all kinds of comforting promises from the entire Gospel. Therefore, whatever ought to be preached about the Sacraments belongs here. In short, the whole Gospel and all the offices of Christianity belong here, which also must be preached and taught without ceasing. God's grace is secured through Christ, and sanctification is wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian Church. Yet, because of account of our flesh, which we bear about with us, we are never without sin.

55 Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered this goal: we shall daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here. So even though we have sins, the <grace of the> Holy Spirit does not allow them to harm us. For we are in the Christian Church, where there is nothing but <continuous, uninterrupted> forgiveness of sin. This is because God forgives us and we forgive, bear with, and help one another.

Pastors and people of the New England District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, keep this as your focus, now and always! We will then truly be blessed by God our Father in Christ, and filled and led by His Holy Spirit!

In Christ,

Pastor Bob Beinke, DP

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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**

**July 15**

Email submissions to  
[NEDcommunications@ned-lcms.org](mailto: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.

## 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.



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## Rev. Gem Gabriel Installed at St. Peter in Norwalk, CT



# NED Life Coordinator Update

## March for Life

This past January 20<sup>th</sup>, I attended the first post-Roe March for Life in Washington DC. It was a great day for the March, not too cold, bright sun! Don't let the Main St Media tell you there were "thousands" in attendance. There were more than 100,000 people marching strong!

I was able to catch a ride down to DC the night before on a bus chartered by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester. Before the bus left, I sat through a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester. I am never as appreciative of being a Confessional Lutheran as when I sit through a mass or service of any other denomination.

I made some new friends on that ride. Two buses filled with adults and High School students, we arrived at the Basilica in DC at 4:15 AM!! The Basilica was not yet opened so we all milled about in the cold and drizzle until after 6AM. Then, finally the Basilica was opened and there was another Mass. Wow! There were so many men in robes and fancy hats processing around. I believe the Basilica was filled to its 6000-person limit. It was lovely! There were many Hymns I knew so I could sing.

After the Mass, a few of us stayed together for the journey to the grounds where the March would start. A very joyful and festive atmosphere everywhere! Finally, I met up with the LCMS marchers from around the country! Rev. Christopher Esget, fifth vice-president of the LCMS, led LCMS marchers in song and enthusiasm.

I marched next to Pastor Wolfmuehler and his wife, and their son. Gregory Seltz, former speaker for the Lutheran Hour was marching, and many other "names." Former NED deaconess Tiffany Manor and her husband, Pastor Jonathon Manor were marching, and Deaconess Manor promised Caps and hats and other things to NED for the CT (and other) March.

30 minutes after the March ended, I was back on the bus with my Roman Catholic friends, arriving home around 1AM.

Worth EVERY moment of time!!

## 40 Days for Life

During the recently held 40 Days for Life campaign, 331 lives were saved! The Spring 2023 vigil began on February 22nd and ended on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

Please prayerfully consider participating in the Fall 40 Days for Life campaign.

## 2023 LCMS Life Conference

The 2023 LCMS Life Conference, which is part of Making Disciples for Life, was held from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023, in St. Louis and online. It was a very good conference with excellent speakers. I suggest to congregations to look for this again in the future and sign up to watch on line, or better yet, attend in person and bring information back to your congregations.

## Life grants still available

The fourth phase of the *1 John 3 Initiative Million Dollar Life Match* is underway, with applications due by June 30. Please consider applying for a grant if your congregation is involved in providing beginning-of-life care in your communities. Any LCMS congregation is eligible to apply.



### Visits from Life Coordinator

Finally, if your congregation's *Lutherans For Life* or *LWML* group wishes to have the Life Coordinator speak or share resources at your church, please let me know at: [lifecoordinator@ned-lcms.org](mailto:lifecoordinator@ned-lcms.org)  
(Not available on Sundays.)

### Upcoming Opportunities to Serve The Lord:

The Pro-Life Action League outlines many ways we can take action for the protection of life. This year's National Pro-Life Bridges Day will be held on Friday, July 21st. - View more at: <https://prolifeaction.org/event/nplb2023/>

Also, <https://shop.prolifeaction.org/collections/protest-supplies/products/bannerkit> to buy a banner kit. Useful year after year!

Pro-life Banner Day is usually in **June** – The NED Life Ministry page will have the date, once it is provided.

### For young people and students:

<https://studentsforlife.org/about/initiatives/>

The NED Life Ministry webpage has been updated. Please check it out!

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

In Christ,

Marla Zeneski, NED Life Coordinator

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## NED Attendees to Higher Things



Youth and leaders from Christ the King in Newtown, CT, and from Our Savior in Westminster, MA attended Higher Things in Lititz, PA

## YOUR INVESTMENT CAN DO MORE THAN JUST EARN INTEREST.

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## Rev. Adam Teferi installed as Missionary-at-Large to the forming Bethel Oromo Lutheran Church





## Lutheran Women's Missionary League New England District

### Mission Grant Applications

It's not too early to submit a Mission Grant application for an outreach ministry of your church or for a project of your church's school or preschool. The application can be found on our website ([lwml-ned.org](http://lwml-ned.org)), and the submission deadline is September 30, 2023. The grants will be voted on by the delegates at the April 2024 convention and paid out as mite donations are received over the next two years.

### Church Worker Scholarships Available

The LWML-NED is currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Any member of an LCMS-NED church who is attending an LCMS University or Seminary and is intending to enter full time service to the LCMS as a pastor, teacher, deaconess, director of Christian education, etc. can apply. The application can be found on our website ([lwml-ned.org](http://lwml-ned.org)), and the submission deadline is August 1, 2023.

### Fall 2023 Retreat

Our fall retreat is planned for November 3-4, 2023, at the DoubleTree Hotel at Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT. Please save the date and plan to join us for two days in the study of God's Word and in fellowship with sisters from throughout New England. The Rev. William Weedon will be leading us in a study of the book of Ephesians. Rev. Weedon is currently the Assistant Pastor and Catechist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamel, IL. He is also the host of *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever* ([thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org)), a daily Bible study podcast on Lutheran Public Radio. Rev. Weedon previously served as the Director of Worship and Chaplain of the International Center of the LCMS in St. Louis.

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. 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, also serving Pastor Lesley Chen, Associate Pastor  
 Pastor Dagan Siepert, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New Ipswich, NH  
 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  
 VACANT, 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  
 Pastor Gem Gabriel, St. Peter's Lutheran, Norwalk, CT  
 Pastor Joshua Schiff, Zion Lutheran, Orange, CT

