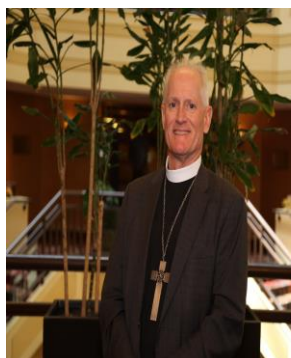


## President's Message



Well, we're in the midst of the summer doldrums. Doldrums: it's an interesting word. It comes from the days when sails, and not engines, powered ships across the seas. The doldrums was the name given by sailors to the Intertropical Convergence Zone, the area near the thermal equator where the northeast and the southeast trade winds converge. The skies there are often windless and calm, and so ships could sit there unmoving for days, even weeks, their sails empty and sagging. People then came to use the word doldrums to refer to a state or period of listlessness, inactivity, stagnation and boredom. So,

in summer, when it's hot and the air is stagnant – or perhaps filled with smoke from fires in Canada – we experience the doldrums! This can even happen in worship; and especially in the summer. Perhaps your pastor is away on vacation... maybe you were on a vacation and attended another church, and found that pastor and people to be more enthused... maybe it's hot and stuffy in the church... and during the summer there are usually no special occasions or ceremonies to enliven the worship. It can make you wonder: is anything happening at church?

Listen to your Lord and take to heart what He says, and He will take away your doldrums. One of my favorite Psalms, and one I especially like to read as I settle into my pew and prepare to worship, is Psalm 100.

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! <sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

There are no doldrums in this Psalm! Quite the opposite, it proclaims and encourages joy and gladness in worship; and it does so by drawing our focus away from ourselves and to our God.

*"Know that the Lord (Yahweh), He is God!"* Meditate upon this as you prepare to worship. You are not in the house of One whom you do not know and who does not know you; a stranger whose attitude toward you is unknown and uncertain. Yahweh... I AM – the God who revealed Himself to Moses as the One who saw and knew the sufferings of His people, whose heart went out to them and who came to be with them and deliver them (Exod. 3) – this is the One into whose house we enter to worship! We know Him especially as Jesus, for He often proclaimed Himself to be Yahweh, the God who appeared to Moses and delivered His people.

**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](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.

➤ When the 12 disciples were in a boat, struggling to row against the wind, and saw Jesus walking to them on the water and cried out in fear because they thought they were seeing a ghost, He told them, *“Take heart; I AM. Do not be afraid.”* (Matt. 14:27)

➤ *“Before Abraham was, I AM”* He said to His Jewish opponents (John 8:58), and for this they tried to stone Him.

➤ *“I AM the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”* (John 11:25-26) *“I AM the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5) *“When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM.”* (John 8:28) When we enter church we are not only entering the house of the eternal Lord; we are entering the house of Him who came to be one with us, our brother in flesh and in faith... who tells us that we can now call God our Father. How wonderful it is to not only know who God is, but to know that He is your Father who receives you graciously and gladly and loves you eternally! *“It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.”*

And so: *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”* These words, as we take them to heart when we enter church, especially remove the doldrums-inspired thoughts, *“Will anything happening this morning? Is this worth my time?”* The Lord, whose presence we are entering, is good! His love for us is unchanging, and endures forever! And so, although we are sinners (as our worship doldrums themselves reveal!)... although we are at times weak in faith and downcast in spirit... still, our good Lord will receive us! He who gave His Son for us – to die for us *“while we were weak,”* even *“sinners... ungodly... and enemies”* (Rom. 5:6-10) – will surely bless us with His forgiveness and love, and even come to dwell within us! Jesus pictures this for us with one of His best-known parables, the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15). The doldrums – and far worse than mere boredom and listlessness! – were clearly seen in the young man as he returned to his father’s house. He trudged along in ragged, worn, and dusty clothes... with no shoes on his feet, his steps slow and hesitant... and with his head down, his heart weighed down by shame and worry. But, when he saw him, his father *“felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”* And he said to his servants, *“Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”*

Every Sunday in God’s house is such a celebration. Your Lord rejoices to be with you and receive you! Keep these words and promises of God before your eyes, in your mind, and in your heart, and your good and gracious Lord will fill you with His joy always!

In Christ,

Pastor Bob Beinke, DP

## District President Bible Study Offered

*President Beinke will not be leading his Thursday evening online Bible study during July and August. The class will resume on September 7 at 7:00 PM. See you Soon!*

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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## Lydia Asante Installed as NED LCMS Deaconess Intern



## LCMS Synod Convention Update

The 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held from July 29 to Aug. 3, at the Baird Center in downtown Milwaukee. The convention theme is, “We Preach Christ Crucified,” based on 1 Cor. 1:18–25. In a world of uncertainty, the Church’s proclamation, mission, and identity remain the same. We preach Christ crucified.

We are blessed to be members of a Church will involves its members in choosing its leaders and deciding its direction and governance. Our Synod meets in convention every 3 years, and voting delegates to the convention are drawn from our congregations. Every Circuit elects a layperson and a pastor to represent the congregations of the Circuit; our District will be sending 5 pastors and 5 laypeople.

The convention will begin with a Communion Service on Saturday, July 29 at 7:00 PM. This Service – as well as the entire convention – will be live-streamed so that you can join in at home. To do so, go to the Synod’s website, [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org). Click on Convention at the top right, then National Convention, then Live Stream Video.

Convention delegates will hear from Lutheran leaders from churches around the world, such as Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, and Dr. Päivi Räsänen, a member of this Church and longstanding member of the Finnish parliament. Both were charged by the government with inciting hate speech, stemming from a 2004 booklet written by Dr. Räsänen and published by the Luther Foundation, *“As Man and Woman He Created Them: Homosexuality and the Challenge to the Christian Concept of Man.”* Thanks be to God, they were found not guilty of the charges, although the government is appealing the verdict. Convention delegates will hear from both of them and also be voting on entering into Church fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland.

Another important thing the delegates will do is bring forward an offering from our congregations. The purpose and goal of the 2023–2026 LCMS National Offering is to produce meaningful Lutheran resources in other languages. For, God has blessed us with His Word in our native language. Our lives are enriched by all of the English materials and resources that we read each day, especially those that bring to us God’s Word.

Not all are so blessed, however. As the church exists throughout the world, so God wants His Gospel to go forth to all people in all languages so that all may read, hear and speak the Good News of Christ crucified. All are invited and encouraged to participate in the National Offering, as the Lord allows, and help share His Word in other languages. Gifts to the National Offering will be accepted through 2026. Congregations can promote the National Offering through instruction sheets and bulletin inserts that are available for free download at [lcms.org/convention/national/offering](http://lcms.org/convention/national/offering). Any congregation that is unable to use the digital resources is welcome to contact LCMS Mission Advancement to arrange for printed materials to be shipped.

Please keep reelected Pres. Harrison, our convention delegates, advisors, and guests, in your prayers. May God richly bless our Church and strengthen us in proclaiming Christ crucified!

## NED Life Coordinator Update

### 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.)

### 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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## Orphan Grain Train – New England Branch

The New England Branch of Orphan Grain Train has been active for nine years in a warehouse located in Terryville, CT. It has completed almost 60 shipments both in the US and abroad and has given out thousands of medical items directly to those in need in our surrounding communities. However, we are nearing a time when we may lose the warehouse space, which we have been so blessed to use.

So, the New England Branch Board is actively seeking another New England LCMS congregation(s) that would be willing to take on this ministry task. It would require warehouse space and a core of volunteers.

It can really be located anywhere in the New England District. If a congregation thinks it would like to become active in this ministry to help those in need, please contact Pastor Joel Kotila of Holy Trinity in Terryville at 860-582-0723.

This mercy-ministry ministry of human aid has been a blessing to many, both to those who receive items or shipments, and those who volunteer.

Pastor Joel Kotila, OGT New England Branch Manager

Paul Arbesman, Warehouse Manager

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# LCMS LUTHERANS

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## WHAT IS PARISH NURSING?

The parish nurse is a registered nurse who is committed to and on a broad level, is an integral part of LCMS Health Ministry. He/she works with the pastor helping and enabling people of the congregation and the community to attain, maintain or regain their best health.

Parish nursing is a unique blend of professional nursing and spiritual caregiving. It is recommended the parish nurse attend a special preparation program for parish nursing. Information on basic preparation and continuing education is available on the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod web site.

You can email Brenda Bacon at [bbacon@ned-lcms.org](mailto:bbacon@ned-lcms.org) to forward any questions to me.

Lynn Batchelder Nurse Practitioner, Parish Nurse

NED Parish Nurse Representative



## **Lutheran Women's Missionary League New England District**

### **2023 Fall Retreat**

#### **An Opportunity to Grow in the Word**

**Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4, 2023**

**"Blessed in Christ: Unpacking the Riches of Ephesians"**

**Bible Study Leader: Rev. William Weedon**

#### **Schedule**

Friday, Registration begins at 5:00 p.m.

Friday Program 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday Program 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### **Registration**

\$60 (\$55 for First Timers)

Registration form online at [lwml-ned.org](https://lwml-ned.org)

#### **Hotel Information**

DoubleTree at Bradley Airport

\$129 including breakfast on Saturday (2 per room)

For reservations: Call the hotel (860-627-5171) or use the booking link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/lutheranwomensmissionary/>

Deadline for LWML room rate is October 13, 2023

#### **Gifts from the Heart**

Support our four NED Lutheran Schools

Items requested: gift cards (Target, Walmart, Staples), Clorox wipes, boxes of tissues, poster board, poster paint, construction paper, highlighters, colored pencils, and crayons.

Sharon Dever

LWML-NED President

[president@lwml-ned.org](mailto: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, 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  
 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  
 VACANT, Christ Lutheran, Amston, CT  
 Pastor Christopher Chandler, Trinity Lutheran, Ashaway, RI  
 Served by Pastor Greg Dwyer, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Coventry, CT  
 Pastor Christopher Chandler, 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

